

What is claimed is:

1. A method for manufacturing an R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet comprising a sintered body with a composition consisting essentially of 25% to 35% by weight of R (wherein R represents one or more rare earth elements, providing that the rare earth elements include Y), 0.5% to 4.5% by weight of B, 0.02% to 0.6% by weight of Al and/or Cu, 0.03% to 0.25% by weight of Zr, 4% or less by weight (excluding O) of Co, and the balance substantially being Fe,

said manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

manufacturing a compacted body containing a low R alloy containing a $R_2T_{14}B$ compound as a main constituent and Zr, and a high R alloy containing, as main constituents, R and T (wherein T represents at least one transition metal element essentially containing Fe, or Fe and Co), wherein said high R alloy contains a higher amount of R than said low R alloy; and

sintering the compacted body.

2. A method for manufacturing an R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, wherein said low R alloy contains Cu and/or Al as well as Zr.

3. A method for manufacturing an R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, wherein a suitable sintering temperature range is 40°C or more in order that said R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet has squareness (Hk/HcJ) of 90% or more.

4. A method for manufacturing an R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, wherein the content of Zr in said sintered body is between 0.05% and 0.2% by weight.

5. A method for manufacturing an R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, wherein the content of Zr in said sintered body is 0.1% to 0.15% by weight.

6. A method for manufacturing an R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, wherein the amount of oxygen contained in said sintered body is 2,000 ppm or less.